

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07 AID-05

COME-00 /083 W

----- 102714

O 201805Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4532

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 4156

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4506

SAN JOSE ALSO FOR SHLAUDEMAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR'S AND FONMIN PALMA'S VIEWS ON
HONDURAN-SALVADORAN RELATIONS.

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAM, ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHARGE
AND POLOFF, CALLED ON CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR AND FONMIN PALMA ON
SEPTEMBER 17. MAJOR POINT DISCUSSED WAS THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR
DISPUTE AND MEDIATION AGREEMENT INITIALED IN WASHINGTON ON
SEPTEMBER 10. RELATED MATTER OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET
WAS ALSO MENTIONED.

2. PALMA SAID THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF A
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT AND COMMENTED THAT
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE CHIEF OF STATE HAD ALREADY
APPROVED IT. PALMA REMARKED THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON
OCTOBER 3 TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT BUT NOTED THAT IT WOULD STILL
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HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES; IN THE CASE OF

HONDURAS THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY, BUT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN EL SALVADOR MUST APPROVE IT. HE SAID THAT, SUBSEQUENT TO RATIFICATION, HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN DELEGATIONS WILL MEET IN SAN JOSE TO CHOOSE A MEDIATOR FROM A GROUP OF EIGHT JURISTS SELECTED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT ABOUT CHOOSING THE MEDIATOR PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN SAN JOSE; IF NOT, THE CHOICE COULD BE MADE BY LOTTERY.

3. WHEN ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CACM, FONMIN REPLIED THAT THE MAJOR MARKETS FOR THE PRODUCTS HONDURAS EXPORTS ARE THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES OUTSIDE CENTRAL AMERICA. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS QUOTE SPEAKING PERSONALLY, UNQUOTE HE ADDED THAT IN THE FUTURE HONDURAS WILL HAVE TO LOOK BEYOND REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

4. CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR WAS EMPHATIC IN SAYING THAT THE GOH DESIRES A SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE AND SAID THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING A TREATY WITH EL SALVADOR ON THE BASIS OF THE MEDIATION PROCESS. MELGAR REPEATEDLY SAID THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IS DAMAGING TO THE TWO COUNTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND TO CENTRAL AMERICA AS A WHOLE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE DURING THE LIFETIME OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC FOR THE CHANCES OF RECREATING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET ONCE THE DISPUTE IS RESOLVED.
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